

2. Scope and Applicability

This QA Plan follows the format of 10 CFR 830.120, "Quality Assurance Requirements". This plan defines and summarizes SC's policy, procedures, and requirements for implementing a comprehensive QA program for the preparation, review, and approval of EISs and for their use as a service in decision-making.

This QA Plan is part of SC's program of QA and continuous improvement related to the use of NEPA documents, the results of which have been described and summarized in several of the SC NEPA Compliance Officer's (NCO) Annual Program Summaries (*Refs. 1, 2, 3, 4*). The SC QA document for Environmental Assessments is contained in the EA QA Plan (SC NCO Communication 94-04 Revision 1, July 2000).

The procedures set forth in this QA Plan will be applied by the program elements in SC HQ. This QA Plan will be applied by the SC HQ NCO and program elements in providing assistance to the Operations Offices in SC's role as Lead Program Secretarial Officer responsible for providing management overview of the Operations Offices, and as Cognizant Secretarial Officer responsible for operations at eleven National Laboratories. These responsibilities are outlined in the *Office of Science Stewardship Functions, Responsibilities, and Authorities Document* (the SC "FRA Document"). SC will also use this QA Plan for review of SC HQ EISs (including Site-wides, and Programmatic), and Field Organization EISs for SC specific projects.

In addition, this EIS QA Plan provides general guidance on what needs to be done within the SC Headquarters management system to assure quality in the management and preparation of an EIS and in its public process. This Plan does not contain all of the specifics on the preparation of an EIS or specifics on the public process. DOE's guidance and procedures are cited within this document to assist with the details.

3. PRIMARY REGULATIONS, PROCEDURES, GUIDANCE AND OTHER NEPA TOOLS

Federal regulations, requirements, Executive Orders, and guidance applicable to the successful implementation of NEPA's procedural provisions are provided in DOE's August 1998 National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Guide, Volume I (see section 3.3 below). Volume II of the DOE NEPA Compliance Guide contains the Department's implementing regulations and related internal requirements, guidance documents, process improvement studies, and other helpful reference materials. The DOE NEPA Compliance guides are not static in nature and new CEQ guidance, and Executive Orders can be found on the CEQ NEPA net at: (<http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/nepanet.htm>) and

DOE guidance and lessons learned can be found on the DOE NEPA Web (<http://tis.eh.doe.gov/nepa>). The Office of Science will use these tools containing NEPA references as the standards to be used in the preparation, review and approval of EISs that meet the Department's expectations for quality, completeness, and adequacy. This QA Plan describes how these tools will be used and how their use will be managed.

SC will incorporate by example and reference SC's lessons learned from experiences gained during the NEPA process for recent EISs. These lessons learned will supplement the DOE NEPA Compliance Guide with SC specific information.

For convenience, the primary Federal, Departmental, and Office of Science (formerly Office of Energy Research) references are listed below. Copies of these materials are available from the SC NCO. Additionally, most of these reference sources can be found on the DOE NEPA web site maintained by the DOE Office of Environment, Safety and Health (EH) and on the SC NEPA web site:

DOE NEPA Web - <http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa>

SC NEPA Web Site - <http://www.sc.doe.gov/SC-80/SC-83/nepacomp.htm>